

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 EA-11 AID-20 IGA-02 NIC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 CU-04

AGR-20 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 STR-08 DRC-01 /196 W

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R 211345Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8666

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

ANEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 6016

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IN

SUBJECT: NO SURPRISES IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEBATE

1. LANGUID AND UNINFORMATIVE CLOSING DEBATE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN THE LOK SABHA (LOWER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT) DECEMBER 20-21 BEFORE NO MORE THAN 80-100 MPS, SERVED ONLY TO VENTILATE WELL-KNOWN GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION VIEWS. COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA-MARXIST SPOKESMAN, WHILE WELCOMING THE BREZHNEV VISIT PACTS AND ATTACKING WESTERN INFLUENCE IN INDIA, URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN RELATIONS WITH CHINA. PRO-MOSCOW COMMUNIST SPEAKERS BRADLY SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY, UNDERLINED THE NEED FOR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF THE VAGUE BREZHNEV PROPOSALS ON ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY, AND CRITICIZED THE PL-480 RUPEE SETTLEMENT AS PERMITTING THE US TO CONTINUE TO "CONTROL OUR ECONOMY". RIGHTIST JANA SANGH AND "OLD"

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CONGRESS PARLIAMENTARIANS ARGUED THAT THE BREZHNEV VISIT AGREEMENTS HAD TIED THE INDIAN ECONOMY TOO CLOSELY TO THE SOVIET. ANTI-

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN GENERALLY SAW US-SOVIET DETENTE AS A THREATENING STEP TOWARD WORLD CONDOMINIUM. CONGRESSMAN REPLIED THAT DETENTE WAS THE FULFILLMENT OF NEHRU'S VISION; WHILE THE USSR HAD ALWAYS BEEN INDIA'S DEPENDABLE FRIEND, THE USA HAD NOT. NEVERTHELESS, THOSE CONGRESSMEN WHO MENTIONED THE US WELCOMED IMPROVED INDO-US REALTIONS. PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH ATTRACTED LITTLE COMMENT.

2. REPLYING TO THE DEBATE, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER SWARAN SINGH DODGED AND WEAVED AND SAID VERY LITTLE AT GREAT LENGTH. HE PRAISED BANGLADESH'S PROGRESS AND CLOSE TIEW WIIH INDIA. HE CRITICIZEED PRESIDENT BHUTTO'S SLOWNESS IN RECOGNIZING DACCA AND IN AGREEING TO BILATERAL DISCUSSION ON RE-ESTABLISHING INDO-PAK TRADE, COMMUNICATIONS, AND CULTURAL TIES, AS FORESEEN IN THE DELHI AGREEMENT. HE NOTED THE MCUH LARGER PROPORTION OF PAKISTAN'S GNP DEVOTED TO DEFENSE THAN INDIA'S. HE WAS HOPEFUL ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST UNDER US-SOVIET AUSPICES BUT UNEQUIVOCAL ON INDIAN SUPPORT FOR THE ARABS. SWARAN SINGH REITERATED INDIAN OPPOSITION TO ANY MAJOR NAVAL PRESENCE BY A NON-LITTORAL STATE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, SPECIFICALLY NAMING THE USSR AND THE USA, INTER ALIA. HE RECOUNTED STEADY SOVIET POLITICAL SUPPORT TO INDIA IN EVERY CRISIS FROM KASHMIR (1947) TO BANGLADESH (1971) AND SAW THE BREZHNEV VISIT AND THE PLEDGES OF MORE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AS FURTHER PROOF OF SOVIET STEADFASTNESS. NEVERTHELESS, HE EMPHASIZED THE INDIANS PAI FOR ALMOST EVERYTHING THEY GOT FROM THE SOVIETS, ASKING HOW THIS COULD LEAD TO "DEPENDENCE" (AT WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED HER ONLY INTERJECTION, "WE'RE NOT DEPENDENT".) IN REFERRING TO THE USA, SWARAN SINGH COMMENDED THE PL-480 RUPEE AGREEMENT AS RECOGNIZING MUTUAL INTERESTS AND REALITIES AND EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS WOULD CONTINUE ON THE UPGRADE. CHINA WENT UNMENTIONED. MOYNIHAN

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